
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg



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SENATOR GREGG SUPPORTS MEASURE TO PROTECT VETERANS FROM FINANCIAL SCAMS

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that he is cosponsoring a measure designed to protect veterans from financial scams that offer one-time cash payments in return for veterans' monthly benefit checks. The Veterans Benefits and Pensions Protection Act of 2003 closes a legal loophole that allows companies to enter into contracts with veterans by offering them instant cash in exchange for future benefit payments. These contracts are effectively loans at interest rates ranging up to 40%, and frequently require assets, including life insurance, as collateral. The measure also authorizes a five-year education program through the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide information to veterans about financial services available to them to protect them from such scams.

Senator Gregg stated, "While it is presently illegal for veterans to directly sell their pension or disability compensation, despicable individuals have found ways around this law to make money off those who risked their lives to defend our nation. Veterans who depend on these benefits are then left to pay back burdensome loans at outrageously high interest rates or risk losing valuable assets they have accumulated. I hope the Veterans Affairs Committee passes this measure and I look forward to supporting it when it comes before the full Senate for consideration."

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